WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Subsidies for Haj

2887. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide subsidies to Haj Pilgrimage for 2005 and 2006 season; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to carry 1,00,000 pilgrims on Haj pilgrimage in the current Haj period. The airfare to be paid by each pilgrim will be Rs. 12,000 and the rest will be borne by the Government as subsidy.

Haj Terminal at Lucknow Airport

2888. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to provide Haj Terminal at Lucknow airport for the facilities to the Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this facility is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to develop an exclusive Haj terminal at Lucknow airport. Airports Authority of India (AAI) also has a plan to expand and modify the existing terminal building for handling more number of international flights including Haj flights. Currently, during the Haj pilgrimage, temporary shelters are provided to cater to the needs of Haj pilgrims.

(c) The work is expected to commence during 2006-07 and completed within two years after commencement.